

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 OPR-02 A-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 PPT-02

DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10 AF-10

IO-15 EUR-25 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 CCO-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 /129 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN:CFF

APPROVED BY NEA:JJSISCO

NEA:ALATHERTON

S/PRS:RMCCLOSKEY

S/SO:MISS ELTZ

WLG:MJONES

----- 043721

O 080215Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: TRAVEL BY AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: BEIRUT 11898

1. BELIEVE MEDIA COVERAGE OF CURRENT FIGHTING MORE THAN
SUFFICIENT TO ALERT US CITIZENS RE SITUATION IN MIDDLE
EAST. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES BY INTERESTED PARTIES,
DEPT IS DISCOURAGING TRAVEL TO AREA. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT
PLAN AT THIS TIME TO ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT. UP TO NOW
SITUATION HAS NOT APPEARED SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO WARRANT
PUBLIC STATEMENT. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT PUBLIC STATEMENT
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AT THIS POINT WARNING AGAINST TRAVEL TO AREA MIGHT BE

INTERPRETED AS INDICATING USG EXPECTS EVENTS TO TAKE A
TURN FOR WORSE, AND THEREBY POSSIBLY CONTRIBUTE TO SUCH
DEVELOPMENT.

2. FOREGOING NOTWITHSTANDING, IF EMBASSY BELIEVES SITU-
ATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS CONTINUING TRAVEL TO SYRIA
PRESENTS SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS POTENTIAL PROBLEM TO WARRANT
LOW KEY STATEMENT ISSUED LOCALLY IN BEIRUT, WE WOULD BE
PREPARED TO CONSIDER AUTHORIZING SUCH STATEMENT BY EMB.

3. FYI -AT PRESS BRIEFING 1800 EDT OCTOBER 7, AMBASSADOR
MCCLOSKEY SAID THAT IN GENERAL PERSONAL PRUDENCE WOULD
DICTATE THAT IF ONE IS PLANNING TO TRAVEL INTO THE AREA
ONE MIGHT WANT TO THINK TWICE OR CONSIDER CAREFULLY HOW
NECESSARY SUCH TRAVEL IS, BUT NO REPEAT NO INSTRUCTIONS

AGAINST TRAVEL OF AMERICANS HAVE BEEN ISSUED AND NO
REPEAT NO INSTRUCTIONS FOR EVACUATION OF AMERICANS IN THE
AREA HAVE BEEN ISSUED. KISSINGER

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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